

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02265 210859Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 ACDA-12 IO-13
/082 W
-----069007 211055Z /21
R 210827Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9972
INFO CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MORG, SOPN, KS, US
SUBJ: MEDIA COVERAGE OF TEAM SPIRIT '78

SUMMARY. MEDIA COVERAGE OF TEAM SPIRIT '78 WAS EXTENSIVE.
ON BALANCE, REACTION WAS VERY FAVORABLE TO WHAT WAS
CONSIDERED A SIGNIFICANT AND SUCCESSFUL EXERCISE, DESPITE
SOME CARPING. RELATION OF EXERCISE TO TROOP WITHDRAWAL
WAS NOTED, BUT EXERCISE WAS SEEN BY MOST COMMENTATORS AS
RECONFIRMATION OF US DEFENSE COMMITMENT. PRESIDENT
PAK AND DEFENSE MINISTER ALSO MADE FAVORABLE STATEMENTS.

1. ROK JOURNALISTS AND FILM CREWS DISPATCHED TO THE US
COMMENCED MEDIA COVERAGE OF TS '78 ON 2/24 BY REPORTING
PREPARATION AND MOVEMENT OF US-BASED MEN AND MATERIAL
TO ROK WITH HEAVY MEDIA PLAY CONTINUING UPON ARRIVAL
IN KOREA OF LEAD US FORCES. PARTICULAR ATTENTION WAS
GIVEN TO THE DEPLOYMENT IN KOREA OF WEAPONS. EQUIPMENT,
AND TROOPS NOT PERMANENTLY STATIONED IN ROK (LARGEST
ATTENTION-GETTER WAS LANCE MISSILE).

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2. SHORTLY AFTER ACTUAL COMBINED OPERATIONS BEGAN (3/7),
QUANTITY AND PLACEMENT OF COVERAGE DECREASED. CHOSUN
ILBO COMMENTARY AT THIS TIME DERIDED "EXCESSIVE COVERAGE"
GIVEN TO EXERCISE BY ROK MEDIA, AND NOTED THAT "WE SHOULD
KEEP IN MIND THAT TEAM SPIRIT '78 IS CONNECTED TO
UPCOMING USFK PHASEOUT". SEOUL SINMUN MARCH 13 CARRIED
SIMILAR OBSERVATION, IN A SIGNED COMMENTARY BY IM TONG-

SU, WHO DESCRIBED EXERCISE AS "CERTIFIED CHECK WITHOUT SIGNATURE", NOT VALID WITHOUT SUBSEQUENT POLITICAL DECISION.

3. WITH ARRIVAL OF DEPSECDEF DUNCAN AND AS EXERCISE MOVED INTO FINAL DAYS, MEDIA COVERAGE ONCE AGAIN PICKED UP. COMBINED US/ROK MARINE AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS AND US/ROK "COUNTERATTACK" PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR INCREASED REPORTING WHICH INCLUDED LARGE FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS OF INTER ALIA, SOVIET AIRCRAFT DESCRIBED AS ATTEMPTING SURVEILLANCE OF US FLEET SUPPORTING EXERCISE.

4. SUMMARY EDITORIALS AT CONCLUSION OF EXERCISE RETURNED TO POSITIVE NOTE, STRESSING AS MOST IMPORTANT RESULT THE RECONFIRMATION OF US DEFENSE COMMITMENT: "IN POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW, IT HAS SHOWN FIRM USG DETERMINATION TO DEFENSE KOREA" (SEOUL SINMUN); "GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE IN SHOWING OFF THE US INTENTION TO DEFEND KOREA", "PROOF OF CONTINUING COMMITMENT", (SINA ILBO); "CERTAIN TO REMOVE THE CREDIBILITY GAP OF US POLICY GENERATED BY THE US TROOP PULLOUT FROM KOREA" (CHUNGANG ILBO). THE ABILITY OF US/ROK FORCES TO SUCCESSFULLY EXECUTE LARGE COMBINED OPERATIONS WAS ALSO NOTED: "WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING TO PREPARE FOR JOINT ORGANIZATION AND JOINT COMMAND STRUCTURE" (HANGUK ILBO); "CONTRIBUTED TO DEMONSTRATION OF EFFICIENCY OF COMBINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US/ROK MILITARY COMMAND HEADQUARTERS TO BE INAUGURATED THIS SUMMER, AND OF USG AIRLIFT CAPABILITIES" (TONGA ILBO); "WILL SURELY SERVE TOWARDS EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF US/ROK JOINT MILITARY COMMAND HEADQUARTERS" (SEOUL SINMUN).

5. DURING HIS PERSONAL OBSERVATION OF THE EXERCISE, PRESIDENT PAK CALLED IT "USEFUL AND SIGNIFICANT". IN A MESSAGE TO GENERAL VESSEY, MINDEF RO NOTED, "THE EXERCISE ALSO SUCCESSFULLY PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY AND AN ILLUSTRATIVE MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING OUR CONSTANT MUTUAL COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND OUR JOINT RESOLVE TO PRESERVE IT." SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL02265
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780124-0107
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780342/aaaabjie.tel
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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